

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 H-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-02 SS-15 NSC-05 SAJ-01

ORM-02 /065 W

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R 160647Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2635

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 5959

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR, US

SUBJECT: PASSOVER SERVICES IN MOSCOW

1. PASSOVER SERVICE EVENING APRIL 14 (FIRST-SEDAR) PASSED IN WHAT PARTICIPANTS DESCRIBED AS MILDEST CIRCUMSTANCES IN RECENT YEARS. OF THE 500-1000 PEOPLE ATTENDING AT THE SYNAGOGUE, THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY WERE YOUNG (BECAUSE, AS ONE SAID, "OLD PEOPLE DON'T FACE THE HASSLE ANY MORE"). PARTICIPANTS WITH WHOM WE SPOKE EXPECTED TROUBLE FROM AUTHORITIES.

2. AS USUAL, STREET IN FRONT OF SYNAGOGUE WAS BLOCKED TO TRAFFIC AT BOTH ENDS BY POLICE, AND BOTH UNIFORMED (ABOUT 25) AND PLAINCLOTHED POLICE WERE IN ATTENDANCE TOO. BUT THIS YEAR, ASIDE FROM TWO POLICE CARS AND A MEDICAL VAN, NO TRAFFIC WAS LET THROUGH TO DISTURB THE WORSHIPPERS AS THEY FILED OUT. THERE WAS ALSO NO HARASSMENT, FROM THE TIME THE CONGREGATION LEFT UNTIL SOME HOURS LATER, WHEN CROWD HAD COMPLETELY DISPERSED.

3. MATZOH WAS AVAILABLE, AT LEAST TO THE EXTENT OF BEING PASSED AROUND IN THE STREET TO FRIENDLY VISITORS.

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BREMENT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JEWS, REPORTS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS, HOLIDAYS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW05959
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760145-0552
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760454/aaaabtmt.tel
Line Count: 61
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <02 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PASSOVER SERVICES IN MOSCOW
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006